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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/988,566	11/20/2001	Makoto Okada	1359.1057	8743

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EXAMINER	
TRAN, NGHI V	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2151	

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/988,566	OKADA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nghi V. Tran	2151	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *25 August 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-7* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-7* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on August 25, 2006. No claims have been amended. Claim 8 has been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-7 are presented for further examination.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed August 25, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because of the following: Thatte teaches an object collaboration apparatus operated in accordance with a message and action relationship [see abstract and fig.2], comprising: a message receiving part for allowing each object to monitor and capture a message transmitted on a network [figs.6-7]; a message and action relationship storing part [fig.4 and col.16, ln.13 - col.18, ln.65]; an action executing part for executing processing in accordance with the contents of an action [col.4, lns.9-54], wherein the apparatus further comprises a message type classifying and matching part, the message type classifying and matching part stores and holds a message type dealt with by the message and action relationship storing part, analyzes a message type of a received message, conducts matching processing for determining whether or not a type of the received message is matched with the message type dealt with by the message and action relationship storing part, and if matched, gives the received message to the message and action relationship storing part [figs.2-5 and col.9, ln.15 - col.13, ln.28], and an action is executed in accordance with the message and action relationship

based on the message given to the message and action relationship storing part [fig.9]. However, Thatte does not explicitly show a message and action relationship storing part for storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message and adapted to search for corresponding action with a message body as a search key. In an object collaboration apparatus, Klimczak suggests or discloses a message and action relationship storing part [figs.4-5] for storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message [i.e. action description] and adapted to search for corresponding action with a message body as a search key [i.e. check whether the action item is present, step 7 of fig.10].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Thatte in view of Klimczak by storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message and adapted to search for corresponding action with a message body as a search key because this feature may correspond to many various types of functionality relating to the user interface, such as data display, data output and data transfer rather than to database access or database modification privileges [Klimczak, see abstract]. It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated in order to decide on the subscriber's configuration strategy and to actually input the desired configuration information into the appropriate computer [Klimczak, paragraph 0011].

3. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections

are based on combinations of references. See In re Keller, 642F. 2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); In re Merck & Co., 800 F. 2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Applicant obviously attacks references individually without taking into consideration based on the teaching of combinations of references as show in the above.

4. In response to applicant's arguments that neither Thatte nor Klimczak does not disclose or suggest "a message and action relationship storing part for storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message and adapted to search for a corresponding action with a message body as a search key." Examiner respectfully disagrees because Klimczak suggests a message and action relationship storing part [i.e. table **312** stores object ID **320** and action ID **322**, figs.4-5] for storing contents of an action [i.e. action description **324** and/or action purpose description **328**] that is a reaction to the message and adapted to search for a corresponding action with a message body as a search key [i.e. object ID **320** and/or action ID **322**].

5. In response to applicant's argument that Klimczak does not disclose or suggest "searching for a corresponding action with a message body as a search key". Examiner respectfully disagrees because Klimczak suggests searching for a corresponding action with a message body as a search key. For example, accessing to various functionality or features is one of the searching [see abstract] for a corresponding action with a message body [i.e. object body] as a search key [i.e. object ID **320** and/or action ID **322**].

6. Therefore, the examiner asserts that cited prior arts teach or suggest the subject matter broadly recited in independent claims. Claims 2-3 and 5 are rejected at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claims and by other reasons set forth above. Accordingly, claims 1-7 are respectfully rejected as shown above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thatte et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,442,620 (hereinafter Thatte), in view of Klimczak et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0023180 (hereinafter Klimczak).

9. With respect to claims 1, 4, and 6-7, Thatte teaches an object collaboration apparatus operated in accordance with a message and action relationship [see abstract and fig.2], comprising:

- a message receiving part for allowing each object to monitor and capture a message transmitted on a network [figs.6-7];

- a message and action relationship storing part [fig.4 and col.16, ln.13 - col.18, ln.65];
- an action executing part for executing processing in accordance with the contents of an action [col.4, lns.9-54],
- wherein the apparatus further comprises a message type classifying and matching part, the message type classifying and matching part stores and holds a message type dealt with by the message and action relationship storing part, analyzes a message type of a received message, conducts matching processing for determining whether or not a type of the received message is matched with the message type dealt with by the message and action relationship storing part, and if matched, gives the received message to the message and action relationship storing part [figs.2-5 and col.9, ln.15 - col.13, ln.28], and
- an action is executed in accordance with the message and action relationship based on the message given to the message and action relationship storing part [fig.9].

However, Thatte does not explicitly show a message and action relationship storing part for storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message and adapted to search for corresponding action with a message body as a search key.

In an object collaboration apparatus, Klimczak suggests or discloses a message and action relationship storing part [figs.4-5] for storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message [i.e. action description] and adapted to search for

corresponding action with a message body as a search key [i.e. check whether the action item is present, step 7 of fig.10].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Thatte in view of Klimczak by storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message and adapted to search for corresponding action with a message body as a search key because this feature may correspond to many various types of functionality relating to the user interface, such as data display, data output and data transfer rather than to database access or database modification privileges [Klimczak, see abstract]. It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated in order to decide on the subscriber's configuration strategy and to actually input the desired configuration information into the appropriate computer [Klimczak, paragraph 0011].

10. With respect to claim 2, Thatte further teaches classification of the message type has a hierarchy, and a message type header representing message type contains information representing the hierarchy of the classification of the message type, and by applying the hierarchy of the classification of the message type, the message type classifying and matching part stores and holds a message type dealt with by the message and reaction relationship storing part, analyzes a message type of the received message, and conducts matching of the message type [col. 22, ln.29 - col.28, ln.18].

11. With respect to claim 3, Thatte further teaches the message type is defined by using an idea of inheritance in object-oriented programming, and the hierarchy of the classification of the message type contains a hierarchy of classification of a class derivation message type and a class derivation origin message type [col.23, lns.43-60 and col.1, ln.15 - col.2, ln.58].

12. With respect to claim 5, Thatte further teaches for synchronization processing between objects, action contents desired to be subjected to the synchronization processing are described by using the object entity name to be an entity name rewrite target by the entity name rewrite object, in the message and action relationship storing part of an object to be a slave, and the entity name rewrite object rewrites the object entity name written as the entity name rewrite target into an object entity name to be a master object of the synchronization processing [col.4, ln.10 - col.5, ln.58].

Conclusion

13. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nghi V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-4067. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarni Maung can be reached on (571) 272-3939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nghi V Tran
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2151

November 1, 2006

RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER